

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
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TOM LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM

KEN WEBER

**PROCEEDING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF MONTANA
May 16, 2006**

Present: Commissioners Lythgoe, Notbohm and Weber; Duane Harp, Helena National Forest; Bill Lloyd and Jeremiah Theys, Great West Engineering; Jan Anderson, *Boulder Monitor/Jefferson County Courier*

MINUTES

Commissioner Weber moved to approve the minutes of April 18. Commissioner Notbohm seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Notbohm moved to approve the minutes of May 2. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Weber moved to approve the minutes of May 9. Commissioner Lythgoe seconded. The motion carried.

CALENDAR REVIEW

- 5/18 CTAC - Whitehall - 8:00
- Greely hearing - 8:30
- MTAG - 5:00
- Health Board - 6:30
- Solid Waste Board - 7:00
- 5/23 JLDC - business park review - 9:00
- North Jefferson County zoning commission meeting - Montana City - 4:00

COMMISSION REPORTS

EMERGENCY RADIO AND HIGH SPEED INTERNET

Commissioner Lythgoe reported that he met with Sally Buckles, Lee Goode and a representative from Jefferson Broadband regarding funding for the emergency radio station and high speed internet. He told them that they would need to come before the Commission to make a formal request. He stated that he spoke with Sally earlier in the day, and there may be funding through the Health Department for the radio station, as part of the bio-terrorism grant.

JLDC

Commissioner Lythgoe reported on the JLDC meeting held at the Boulder Town Hall the

previous week. It was mostly business as usual. The annual planning meeting was scheduled for June 28. They also discussed the *Concerned Citizens of Boulder* and their concerns regarding the meth treatment facility. They feel that the JLDC was pushing the treatment facility way before the Commission was involved. The group also wants to be kept abreast of any economic development in the county.

SUBDIVISION REVIEW PROCESS

Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he and Commissioner Notbohm met with Harold Stepper, Ben Sautter, Megan Bullock and Sam Little regarding the subdivision review process and how to better streamline it. He said that there was good discussion, and he hopes it will be useful. Commissioner Notbohm stated that he thought there was a determination of how things were going to be handled, but it seems that things have changed now. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that the parties involved were going to meet once a week, but Harold is having a problem with this. Commissioner Weber stated that the majority want to do this. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he will tell Harold that the meetings will be held and that they need to stick with the plan.

ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONERS ACTION OR REVIEW

DUANE HARP - HELENA NATIONAL FOREST - PROJECT UPDATE

Duane stated that he came to update the Commission on four items, the Weed EIS, Park Lake, Warm Springs project, and roads.

They have signed a record of decision on the weed plan. They will be doing aerial spraying and there are now new chemicals allowed, which is good news. This will allow them to spray more acres. This will likely be appealed, but they hope to be able to spray by the end of August, and they hope to get a contract awarded this fiscal year.

Duane asked the Commissioners if any of them had been up to see the new dam at Park Lake. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he had. Duane then presented some pictures of the project that were taken that morning. They have had adverse effects from disperse camping, so they have decided to close those sites for overnight camping and fires, which will not be popular. However, the fee campground will still be open. The dispersed sites will be closed by Memorial Day, and the Forest Service will be up there daily to police the area. They are looking for ways to enhance day use at the lake, with parking areas, picnic tables, grills, etc., after they see how things go up there. Commissioner Weber asked if the Forest Service utilize volunteer campground hosts. Duane stated that they do, but Park Lake is pretty remote, and hosts like to have electricity and running water.

Duane said that the Warm Springs project is a revitalization of the north Elkhorn project. They haven't finalized the plans yet, but they have discussed making it larger. This area includes a ponderosa pine ecotype that is important to wildlife. There are a lot of ladder fuels in project area, and if there were a fire, the ponderosa pines would be lost. They also plan to do a research project called birds and burns, which will study the effect of controlled burns on the bird

population. Aspen is also a concern; it seems to be on its way out. They are not reproducing by seed, and there has been no disturbance from fire. Commissioner Notbohm asked if there is any work planned where the fire went through. Duane answered potentially; the new growth of lodgepole is very thick, and doesn't provide for habitat.

Regarding roads, Duane presented a map of the Clancy/Unionville project area. Some of the roads are slated to be decommissioned, which means they will be closed, re-contoured and re-vegetated. Commissioner Lythgoe asked for the reasoning behind this. Duane stated that a lot has to do with habitat, and these roads are putting sediment into the creek. Commissioner Notbohm stated that he would like to go physically look at the roads; he needs to look at them before he can agree to anything. Duane stated that they certainly can go look at them. Commissioner Lythgoe said that they need to make an appointment to go out and look at the roads. They discussed open dates, and Duane will check with people on his end and let the Commissioners know what dates work best for them. Commissioner Notbohm stated that this certainly can't be done in one day. He also noted that some of these road closures could cause hardship for people with grazing permits.

Commissioner Weber asked Duane if he has had any luck with locating historical maps. Duane stated that it would be best to have someone come in and sit down to review. He will have someone call to set up an appointment.

DISCUSS NORTH JEFFERSON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN AND RID

Bill Lloyd with Great West Engineering presented an overview of where they are currently, stating that there are still some loose ends to tie up. They need to re-visit Lime Kiln and see if the residents are interested in joining and find out if the Jack Mountain subdivision is interested in hard surfacing the roads and joining. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he would like Tiger Gulch added to the RID. Bill said that they are looking at the creation of two rural improvement districts (RIDs) and one rural maintenance district (RMD) which will combine the two RIDs.

In RID #1, the improvement costs are estimated at between \$700,000 and \$800,000. Each property owner will be assessed as improvements are made. There are still some questions that need to be answered by Mae Nan, who is taking care of the bonding. Commissioner Weber noted that the people who live on Tiger Gulch are part of the South Hills RID, which sunsets in two years. These people need to be contacted.

Bill stated that RID #2 will be somewhat different. They can demonstrate a common use of Jackson Creek Road for most of the roads. There will be varying assessments, and there are issues that need to be worked through very carefully with Mae Nan to make sure that all get a fair assessment. It is possible that there will be a substantial difference in RID #2. The estimate for the improvements are \$800,000 to \$900,000. They need tax information on the Jack Mountain subdivision. It currently shows one parcel with one GEO code, but there are 57 lots there. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he will contact the Department of Revenue and get the information.

Bill stated that they will put together the improvement costs for Tiger Gulch, and will get

information from South Hills and Lime Kiln. Once they have this information, they will get it to Mae Nan. Regarding timing, Commissioner Notbohm asked when would be a good time to go out for this. Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he wants to get started this summer, and he also wants to have one more public meeting with mailed invitations. Bill asked if he would like to have Mae Nan involved at that meeting, and Commissioner Lythgoe stated that he would. Bill stated that he would have to have a meeting with Mae Nan to get the figures together for the meeting.

After all the information has been finalized, a resolution of intent will be mailed out to every person to be assessed, and they will then have 15 days to protest.

Jeremiah stated that he spoke with Jim Hammill regarding Clark Creek Loop, and the homeowners definitely want to join in. There is also a road in the subdivision that the homeowners are willing to pay to have improved, if the Commission wants. It does go through the Ash Grove property. The road is pretty rustic and will cost a lot to bring it up to standards, but the residents would be able to get out more quickly and it would alleviate traffic through Jefferson Hills. Commissioner Lythgoe asked Jeremiah to come up with a separate figure for this road.

Bill stated that MDT came back with no comment on the travel plan.

On a different note, Bill presented the Commission with task order #6 and a consultant services agreement for the CTEP project to replace sidewalks around the courthouse. The contracts have been reviewed and approved by MDT.

MEETING ADJOURNED

ATTEST:

BONNIE RAMEY
CLERK AND RECORDER

TOMAS E. LYTHGOE, CHAIR

CHUCK NOTBOHM, COMMISSIONER

KEN WEBER, COMMISSIONER